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KINGSBRIDGE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health
for the Year 1951



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KINGSBRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL.

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

Council Offices, Manor House, Kingsbridge, S. Devon.

CLERK TO M.O.H.

Miss J. PALK.

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KINGSBRIDGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

Medical Officer of Health : DR. W. C. SMALES, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health : DR. W. H. COWPER, M.B.,
B.CH., B.A.O.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector : MR. R. C. HUNT, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Report on the health of the district for the year 1951.

The health of the district has continued to be very satisfactory.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)—1147½.

Population—The Registrar General's estimate of the resident population—3,144.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1951) according to the Rate Book—998.

Number of unoccupied houses—9.

Rateable Value—£22,462.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£90. 2s. 4d.

The town of Kingsbridge is the market centre of an agricultural and highly attractive country district, and its inhabitants are mainly engaged in commerce.

The social conditions are generally favourable to health and longevity.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births :

		Total.	M.	F.
Legitimate	.....	50	24	26
Illegitimate	.....	1	—	1
		<hr/> 51	<hr/> 24	<hr/> 27

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population: 16.22

Still Births	—	—	—
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Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births) : 16.22.

Deaths	61	37	24
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Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population :
19.40.

Deaths from Maternal causes (heading 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :

		Rate per 1,000	
		Total (Live and	
		Deaths.	still births).
No. 30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	Nil	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—.

All infants per 1,000 live births	.....	.....	Nil
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			Nil
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	.....	.....	13
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	.....	.....	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	.....	.....	—

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	M.	F.
1. Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	1	1
2. Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease	1	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—
6. Meningoccal Infections	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
8. Measles	—	—
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	2	1
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	2	—
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	1
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	1
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	4	2
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	—
16. Diabetes	—	—
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	2	4
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	6	1
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	—	1
20. Other Heart Disease	5	1
21. Other Circulatory Disease	—	3
22. Influenza	3	3
23. Pneumonia	1	1
24. Bronchitis	4	—
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	—
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	—	—
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	—
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	3	—
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	—	—
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations	—	—
32. Other defined and ill-defined Diseases	1	4
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	—	—
34. All other Accidents	—	—
35. Suicide	1	—
36. Homicide and Operations of War	—	—
	37	24
	—	—

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

The Public Health Officers of the Authority are a Medical Officer of Health (also Medical Officer of Health of Plympton Rural District, Kingsbridge Rural District, Salcombe Urban District, Kingsbridge and Salcombe Port Sanitary Authority and Medical Officer to the South Devon Water Board).

Deputy Medical Officer of Health (occasional).

One full-time Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.—The Public Health Laboratory Service provide a service for the investigation of communicable disease and the examination of milk, water supplies, ice cream and foodstuffs, etc. I am grateful for their assistance and willing co-operation at all times.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION are carried out through the General Practitioner Service or at School Clinics and Infant Welfare Centres by the County Council through the County Health Services. Supplies of Diphtheria antigen can be obtained from the County Medical Officer, 45, St. David's Hill, Exeter, and Vaccine Lymph from the Public Health Laboratory Service, 7, Dix's Field, Exeter.

NURSING ARRANGEMENTS.—There is one District Nurse/Midwife working the area. Supervision is carried out by the County Nursing Officers. The nurse is qualified to administer analgesics, and acts as a County Staff Sister in the area, dealing with matters relating to the off-duty of Nurses in her group.

MIDWIVES.—The Midwives Act is administered by the County Council, which investigates cases of Maternal Mortality and Puerperal Disease. There is one practising midwife in the District.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE.—There is a Centre in Kingsbridge, which is open on Wednesdays each week. The attendance has been very good during the year.

VENEREAL DISEASES TREATMENT.—At the Venereal Disease Dept., City Hospital, Plymouth. Female in-patients are also sent to St. Mary's Home, Exeter. A refund of rail or bus fare can be made in suitable cases by applying to the Medical Officer of the Centre or to the County Medical Officer.

Treatment is also available from a certain number of selected General Medical Practitioners specially approved for the purpose by the County Council, and Ministry of Health. There is one such practitioner at Modbury, and another at Kingsbridge.

ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT is available through the Devon Association for Orthopaedics as in-patients at Exeter and Ivybridge, and for adults at Mount Gold Hospital, Plymouth. For out-patients there is a clinic at Kingsbridge and the South-West Clinic which deals with this district as well, held at the Mutley Assembly Rooms, Plymouth.

THE SOUTH HAMS COTTAGE HOSPITAL provides 16 beds for patients from Kingsbridge and the surrounding district.

Men's Ward	.....	.....	6 beds
Women's Ward	.....	.....	6 beds
Children's Cots	.....	.....	2
Private Wards	.....	.....	2 (one bed each)

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—Cases of infectious disease are sent to the Swilly Isolation Hospital. Patients are removed by the Plymouth Ambulance Service on behalf of the Devon County Council.

AMBULANCE SERVICES.

NON-INFECTIOUS CASES AND ACCIDENTS.—The Devon County Council Ambulance Service provide transport for non-infectious cases and accidents. This service is provided in accordance with Section 27 (2) of the National Health Service Act, 1946, through the agency of the voluntary organisations.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1951.

Diseases.	Total Cases Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Erysipelas	1	—	—
Scarlet Fever	4	—	—
Whooping Cough	9	3	—
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	1	—	—
Poliomyelitis (Non- Paralytic)	1	—	—
Measles	8	—	—
	—	—	—
	24	3	—
	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1951.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 years	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 years	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 years and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY (Moorland Supply) from South Devon Water Board.

The Water Supply is satisfactory in quality and quantity.

Bacteriological examinations of the raw water are made by the Water Board ; samples of water going into supply were submitted for analysis and were satisfactory.

No trace of lead was detected in chemical examinations of this water.

The water is chlorinated.

During the past year, 11 samples of Moorland water were submitted for bacteriological examination. Results were as follows :—Grade I=6 ; Grade 3=1 ; Grade 4=4.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—Complaints have been received of unpleasant smells at the head of the Estuary in the vicinity of Embankment Road. This is being investigated.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.—No alteration in the system, which is satisfactory in all respects.

HOUSING.

RACK PARK ESTATE.

During the year 21 new Flats were completed, making a total of 52 houses and 35 Flats erected since 1946.

FOODSTUFFS CONDEMNED DURING THE PERIOD.

337 tins various.
 61 bottles various.
 352-lbs. 15-ozs. Tinned Meat.
 21-lbs. Cheese.
 32-lbs. Mutton.
 161-lbs. Bacon.
 118-lbs. Pork.
 14-lbs. Sausages.
 4 stones Fish.
 99-lbs. Hogs' Pudding.
 34-lbs. Beef.
 9 Packets Stuffing.
 48-lbs. Tripe.
 2-cwts. Milk Powder.
 122 Rabbits.

NUISANCES, ETC.

No. of complaints received and investigated	.....	.....	10
Nuisances discovered as a result of above	.....	.....	8
No. of Notices issued. Informal	.....	.....	6
Statutory	.....	.....	—
Premises on which nuisances were abated	.....	.....	4
No. and nature of nuisances abated. Drains and W.C.s	.....	.....	3
No. of inspections re Infectious Disease	.....	.....	25
Deficient or impure water	.....	.....	4
Houses renovated or repaired	.....	.....	2
Total number of inspections in connection with erection of new houses and conversions, including new Council Houses	.....	.....	254
Total number of inspections in connection with Public Health	.....	.....	148

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

PART I OF THE ACT.

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

Premises.	No. in Register.	Inspect'ns.	Number of Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosec'd.
(1)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	55	29		
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is en- forced by the Local Author- ity	—	—		
(iii) Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' pre- mises)	—	—		
TOTAL	55	29		

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

W. C. SMALES,

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1952.

